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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24 including a spring, wherein said spring is arranged to urge said valve member to said second position.
3. (Currently amended) A valve suction valve assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said spring is helical.
4. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said housing defines a tapered sealing formation, and wherein said valve member is arranged to engage said sealing formation in said second position.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said cylindrical sleeve has an outwardly-projecting annular flange arranged to make a wiping seal with a bore in said housing.
7. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said second bore is inclined at an angle relative to said first bore.
8. (Currently amended) A valve suction valve assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said angle is substantially 45°.
9. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said housing has a channel extending along an outer surface, and wherein said valve

member includes a plate member arranged for manual engagement and slidably located in said channel.

10. (Currently amended) A valve suction valve assembly according to Claim 9, wherein said housing includes two walls, and wherein said channel extends between said two walls so that said plate member is protected by said walls.

11. (Currently amended) A valve suction valve assembly according to Claim 10, wherein said walls have an upper surface that is curved such that the height of said walls varies along the length of the valve.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said housing has two walls extending longitudinally, and wherein said locking member includes two projections that form a continuation of said two walls when said locking member is in a position to enable movement of said valve member.

17. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said housing has a sealing formation, and wherein said locking member is arranged to displace said valve member by a short distance towards said sealing formation when said locking member is moved to its locking position, such as to enhance the seal with said sealing formation.

18. (Previously presented) A suction valve assembly according to Claim 24, wherein said housing is of a transparent material.

19-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A suction catheter assembly comprising a suction catheter and a valve for controlling flow along said suction catheter, said valve comprising: a housing defining a first bore in communication with said suction catheter and a second bore extending to an outlet opening into said first bore through an aperture; a valve member, said valve member having a sealing surface and being slidable in alignment with said first bore from a first position where said sealing surface is on a side of said aperture remote from said first bore such as to allow unobstructed fluid flow from said suction catheter along the first bore to the second bore to a second position on an opposite side of said aperture to block flow of fluid from said suction catheter between said first and second bores, wherein said valve includes a rotatable locking member operable to prevent movement of said valve member, wherein said locking member is mounted on said housing and has an external surface formation, and wherein said locking member is rotatable between a first position in which said surface formation is out of alignment with a part of said valve member and said valve member is free for sliding movement to a second position where said surface formation is in alignment with said part of said valve member so as to hinder movement of said valve member.

25-26. (Canceled)